

SALCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1947.

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SALCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

Council Offices, Salcombe, S. Devon.

Telephone: Salcombe 208

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Council Offices, Manor House, Kingsbridge, S. Devon.

CLERK TO M.O.H.

Miss Eccles.

Telephone: Kingsbridge 2004.

SANITARY INSPECTOR

Council Offices, Salcombe, S. Devon.

Telephone: Salcombe 63.

SALCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT

for the YEAR ending DEC. 31st, 1947.

Medical Officer of Health: DR.W.C.SMALES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health: DR.R.H.DUMMETT, M.B., Ch.B.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector: MR.R.LUSHER, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Assistant Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector: MR.H.C.YEOMAN, A.R.S.I.,
M.S.I.A.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. RICHMOND AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report for the year ending 31st December, 1947.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) - 1,181.

Population - The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population - 2,495.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1947) according to the Rate Books - 860.

Rateable Value - £21,257.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate - £84.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births - Male 13. Female 23. Total 36.
Live (legitimate) - Male 13. Female 20. Total 33.
Live (illegitimate) Male Nil. Female 3. Total 3.

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of the estimated population 14.42.

STILL BIRTHS - Nil. Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - Nil.

DEATHS - 37. Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population - 14.82.

Deaths (from Puerperal Causes) - Nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age - 2.

DEATH RATE:- All Infants per 1,000 Live Births - 55.55
Legitimate Live Births - 60.60
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births - nil.

Deaths from Heart Disease - 9.
Deaths from Influenza (all ages) - Nil.
Deaths from Cancer - (all ages) - 6.
Deaths from Measles (all ages) - Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) - Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) - One.
Deaths from Syphilitic Diseases - Nil.
Deaths from Intra- Cranial Vascular lesions - 6.

The conditions of occupation and of environment have not had a prejudicial influence on the general health or mortality. Salcombe is well-known as a holiday resort and yachting centre. During the summer months - June to September - the population is practically doubled by the influx of visitors.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA. The Public Health Officers of the Authority are a Medical Officer of Health (also Medical Officer of Health of the Plympton Rural and Kingsbridge Rural and Urban Districts, Kingsbridge and Salcombe Port Sanitary Authority and the Kingsbridge and Salcombe Water Board).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (occasional).

One full-time Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

LABORATORY FACILITIES are provided by the County Council for the examination of milk and water in addition to the usual bacteriological examinations.

PROVISION OF ANTITOXIN - Medical men practising in the district can obtain a free supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin and Scarlatinal Serum. Material is also supplied for the immunisation of children of the district again Diphtheria free of cost.

THE SOUTH HAMS COTTAGE HOSPITAL provides 16 beds for patients from Kingsbridge and the surrounding district :-

Men's Ward	...	6 beds.
Women's Ward	...	6 beds.
Children's Cots	...	2
Private Wards	...	2 (1 bed each)

It is supported by voluntary effort.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL - None in the district, but by arrangement with the Plymouth City Council, infectious cases requiring hospital treatment may be sent to the Swilly Isolation Hospital, Plymouth.

The arrangement referred to is provisional only, pending the completion and adoption of a Scheme under Section 63 of the Local Government Act, 1929, for the provision of hospital accommodation for this part of the Administrative County and which Scheme is in the course of preparation.

MIDWIVES - The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE - There is a Centre in Salcombe which is open on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in each month.

VENEREAL DISEASES TREATMENT. At the Venereal Disease Department, City Hospital, Plymouth. Female in-patients are also sent to St. Mary's Home, Exeter. A refund of rail or 'bus fare can be made in suitable cases by applying to the Medical Officer of the Centre or to the County Medical Officer.

Treatment is also available from a certain number of selected General Medical Practitioners specially approved for the purpose by the County Council, and Ministry of Health. There is one such practitioner in Modbury and another at Kingsbridge.

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT is available through the Devon Association for Orthopaedics as in-patients at Exeter and Plymouth. For out-patients there is a clinic at Kingsbridge and the South West Clinic which deals with this district as well is held at the Mutley Hall Assembly Rooms, Plymouth.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. Every effort has been made during the year to maintain our methods of approach to parents regarding immunisation of their children. Frequent clinics are arranged in the district. The numbers for the year were as follows :- Complete dose 22; and reinforcement dose - 37.

DIPHTHERIA. I would emphasise that in the treatment of Diphtheria, serum should be given at the earliest possible moment, and preferably in one adequately large dose.

The doctor should never wait for the laboratory report before giving antitoxin if he considers on clinical grounds that the patient may be suffering from Diphtheria.

Every attempt should be made by means of 'bus or passenger train services, special messenger, or by personal delivery to ensure that the swab reaches the laboratory in as short a time as possible after it is taken.

It is important to obtain immediate medical advice in cases of suspected Diphtheria.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR, 1947.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>
Puerperal Sepsis	1
Measles.	1
Whooping Cough	6
Scarlet Fever.	2
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	10
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AMBULANCE. For non-infectious cases and accidents, the St. John Ambulance Association provide an ambulance.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1947.

	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
5 - 10 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 20 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 25 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 70 years	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
70 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Totals</u>	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY: (i) The source of water for the district is at South Brent, and is supplied in bulk by the Kingsbridge and Salcombe Water Board, being satisfactory in quality and quantity; (ii) 5 samples of water secured from the domestic tap in the district were submitted for bacteriological examination. All proved satisfactory; (iii) chlorination is effected at the Board's Works at South Brent; and (iv) it is estimated that 98% of the population are supplied by water direct from the Council's mains and the remaining 2% are dependant on private supplies.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. No sewerage scheme of note has been carried out during the year. Messrs. John Taylor and Sons reported on the sewage outfalls and recommended that a comprehensive scheme be carried out which would collect the numerous outfalls into tidal tanks and discharge some distance down the estuary at periods of ebb tide. A scheme for the laying of new main sewers in parts of the district was prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health.

PUBLIC CLEANSING. The weekly collection of refuse has continued. Some nuisance has been caused by the absence of a proper retaining wall round the tip which is situated in a tidal creek. A proposal to erect the necessary wall at an estimated cost of £5,000 has been submitted to the Ministry of Health.

HOUSING. 8 permanent houses were completed during the year and a further 33 houses were in course of erection.
66 houses were inspected under the Housing Acts and informal

action was taken for the repair in the case of 15 houses. Necessary repairs were completed in the case of 10 houses.

FOOD SUPPLIES. The following foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption :- 49 lb. corned beef, 140 lb. oatmeal, 7 lb. bananas, 11 lb. sweets, 15 lb. sugar, 178 tins herring tit-bits, 201 tins of miscellaneous articles (milk, fruit, vegetables, etc).

MILK. 16 samples of milk were taken, 4 samples passed the test, 2 samples failed and the remaining 10 samples were not received by the laboratory within the prescribed time after production.

The nearest laboratory handling milk samples is at Exeter and owing to transport difficulties it is almost impossible, especially in the summer, to take these samples with a reasonable certainty that they can be dealt with before the milk is sour.

All dairies and cowsheds were regularly inspected and notices were served upon three cowkeepers drawing attention to the provisions for securing cleanliness in cowsheds. Upon further inspection it was noted that conditions had been considerably improved. Informal notice was served upon one cowkeeper to improve his dairy and a new dairy is now being erected as a result of this notice.

BAKEHOUSES. The 4 bakehouses were inspected regularly and were kept in a satisfactory condition.

SCHOOLS. There are three Schools in the district. The sanitary accommodation at two of the schools is still very poor.

During the year 1 notice was received referring to one child who was excluded from school because of contact with chicken pox.

DISINFECTION. Routine disinfection has been carried out after all notified cases of infectious disease.

NUISANCES. 8 complaints were received during the year. These were all satisfactorily dealt with by informal action.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. C. SMALES,

Medical Officer of Health.

